

Vital Events

Kansas vital events (resident-live births, deaths, fetal deaths, abortions, and occurrence-marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 0.4 percent from 100,557 in 1992 to 100,187 in 2002. ([Table 1](#))

Between 1992 and 2002, the most significant changes in vital events were a 35.1 percent decrease in the fetal death rate and a 26.7 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2002 at 12,129. This represented 30.8 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2002 (14.5) decreased 3.3 percent from the 1992 rate of 15.0. The rate of 14.2 in 1996 was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate increased 5.7 percent, from 8.7 in 1992 to 9.2 in 2002. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

Hebdomadal, perinatal, neonatal and infant death rates decreased from 1992 to 2002, with percentage decreases of 11.4, 24.0, 7.5, and 18.2, respectively. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

In 2002, the number of couples married in Kansas declined slightly, continuing the generally downward trend that began in 1993. The marriage rate (7.3) decreased 16.1 percent from the 1992 rate of 8.7. The number of marriage dissolutions (divorces and annulments) granted in the state continued its generally downward trend. ([Table 1](#))

Over half (10,368) of the marriages in 2002 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))